

PERFIN COVER OF THE MONTH

Jack Kinabrew of New Orleans, whose collecting interests extend more toward overprints than Perfins, has sent along this illustration of a bit of postal history he thinks might be of interest to Perfin collectors. Here's the story. During World War I, paper was in short supply, so "emergency paper" was used for U.S. postal cards. The paper was rough, gray, and fairly poor quality. Postal cards often were sold in sheets so messages could be printed on many cards at a time. Railroads, for example, used postal cards for freight notices and the like. The sheets of postal cards with their printed messages were either cut apart

into singles, or perhaps cut or rouletted into strips so they could be fed into typewriters. The card shown in the illustration has been rouletted. And, added to the 1¢ postal card is a 1¢ postage stamp bearing the D&L/W pattern (with Perfin design reinforced for illustration here) of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad. The added stamp was used to pay for the tax on the postal card. It was not a rate increase, but rather a wartime tax, which forced the addition of the Perfin. It is quite a combination of postal, political and paper-making history.

